

Media, Elections and Gender Monitor

Lebanon

1st - 30th April 2022

Maharat Foundation, Madanyat Association and UN Women are partnering to monitor how gender is being addressed by the media in relation to Lebanon's 2022 electoral process, including measuring the presence, portrayal, and representation of female candidates by the media. This falls under the broader work of all three organisations to promote gender equality in Lebanon.

The focus of the elections media monitoring is on TV and social media.

Snapshot findings

102 female candidate accounts

831 total comments & responses that include violence

- Types of violence:
 - 1 Cyberbullying
 - 2 Psychological violence
 - 3 sexual violence

Overview

The Twitter and Facebook accounts of 102 female candidates were monitored during the time period, April 1 and April 30, 2022. Of the **39,371 comments responding to 2,710 posts by the 102 candidates, a total of 831 comments are characterized as gender-based violence.** In April, this represented 2% of all comments left on the social media accounts of the 102 female candidates.

In March this percentage was 7% based on a sample of 18 women candidates who were the most active women candidates on social media. *It should also be noted that this number might reflect under reporting as candidates may have immediately deleted/reported some of the more violent comments.*

The percentage of VAWP comments has decreased from 7% to 2% because of the larger number of monitored accounts (102) in comparison

of February - March report (18) without any indication that the abusive comments and reactions have in fact receded.

On the contrary, the reactions towards female candidates and journalists (hosts) have reflected a mix of a patronizing attitude and demeaning comments.

The violence is classified into:

- Cyberbullying;
- harassment and threats of a sexual nature;
- bias against women; and
- threats and intimidation.

There were **3 recorded incidents of violence on TV against female candidates during this month.** Women and men's TV representation and presence was monitored. **The findings show a decrease in women's access to TV news bulletins (4%) with an increased appearance in talk shows (22%).**

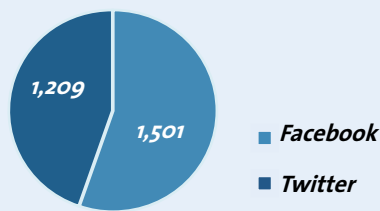
Social media platforms

The monitoring process included the social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter) of **102 women candidates during the month of April of the year 2022**. Comments on their pages, positions, activities and opinions by followers or users were monitored and analyzed on social media.

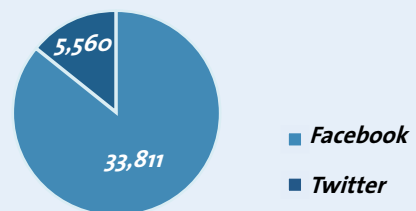
2,710 tweets/posts were monitored and analyzed during the month of April. A total of **831 comments**, out of **39,371** constituted a type of online violence directed at the female candidates.

These comments and responses were distributed between Twitter and Facebook as follows:

Distribution of total 2710 tweets/posts during april 2022 sample of 102 accounts (women candidates)



Distribution of total 39,371 comments/replies during april 2022 sample of 102 accounts (women candidates)



Breakdown of violent/nonviolent comments and responses:



Breakdown of total 39,371 violent/non violent comments/replies during april 2022 sample of 102 accounts (women candidates)

831 VAWP comments
38,540 non-violent comments

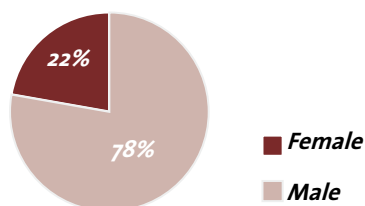
Percentage of violent form of expression during april 2022 sample of 102 accounts (women candidates)

2% VAWP comments
98% non-violent comments

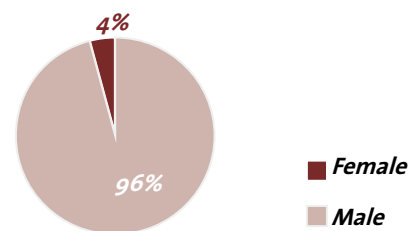
Television Coverage

Maharat Foundation monitored the presence of women across electoral and political TV segments and shows on Lebanon's television stations during April. **The findings show men dominated presence in news bulletins with increased access of women to political talk shows.**

Distribution of appearances in news bulletins/ talk shows between men and women actors from a total of 724,096 seconds



Distribution of appearances in news bulletins/ talk shows between men and women actors from a total of 49,046 seconds



Maharat Foundation, Madanyat Association and UN Women will continue to undertake gender, media and elections monitoring in the lead up to the 2022 elections, and will be working together, with KAFA (enough) Violence & Exploitation and LADE to support female candidates to address, prevent and respond to violence against women in politics.